

FINALISED FORENSIC INVESTIGATION AND PROVENANCE REPORT: LADY MARY FITZWILLIAM

ACCESSION NUMBER: RN-LMF-1882-RV

LEAD INVESTIGATOR: Alan Parker, Proprietor, Ranui Nurseries

DATE OF RECORD: April 2026

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report documents the forensic isolation and rescue of the original 1882 scion genetics of the rose *Lady Mary Fitzwilliam*. This investigation identifies a multi-decade slow reversion event where vigorous rootstock smothered the original scion on the 1930 Roxburgh mother plant. Crucially, this report establishes that the commonly cited descriptions attributed to the breeder, Henry Bennett, are superseded by deeper archival records and references which provide the only accurate diagnostic profile for the authentic lineage.

2. HISTORICAL TIMELINE & FORENSIC CHAIN OF CUSTODY

- **1930:** Mother plant established at Roxburgh Vicarage as a high tree standard graft. Archival records confirm this form was utilized to bring the "nodding" blooms to eye level.
- **THE SMOTHERING EVENT:** Over many decades, a slow reversion occurred. The 1930s rootstock began to overwhelm the original 1882 Bennett scion. By October 2020, the rootstock had smothered the scion almost completely; the

rose to be verified at that time was De la Grifferaie and deemed "not the real Lady Mary Fitzwilliam."

- **OCTOBER 2020 (THE COLLAPSE & RESCUE):** The mother plant suffered a total structural failure. Cuttings were taken from the fallen material. While people were collecting cuttings mostly of the dominant De la Grifferaie rootstock, a rare piece of original scion wood survived and was successfully struck by a grower, from this they propagated 1 more. This ended up being given to the current owner
- **THE DISCOVERY:** Alan Parker identified a vast difference between the bloom of the rescued scion and the common rootstock. Forensic verification proved that Henry Bennett's widely stated description was superseded by primary archival references. The true bloom is a Silvery-flesh pink open-form with visible yellow stamens, as reported by *Gardeners' Chronicle* (1882).

3. EXTENDED ARCHIVAL REFERENCE COMPENDIUM

- **Gardeners' Chronicle (1882):** Confirms the true open form with a "yellow eye" (bright yellow stamens).
- **William Paul (The Rose Garden, 1888):** Describes growth as "dwarf" and "feeble," noting it is distinct for its "exquisite texture."
- **Thomas Rivers (Rose Amateur's Guide):** References the "exquisite but weak" stems that cause the large blooms to nod

4. LEGAL PROTECTIONS & CUSTODIAL GUARDS

I. SOLE VERIFIER AUTHORITY

Ranui Nurseries is the Primary Verifier. Any plant distributed under this name that does not pass an audit against our 9-point matrix is subject to notice under the **Fair Trading Act 1986** for misleading conduct.

II. SOLE PROPAGATOR'S CLAUSE

Alan Parker is the Sole Authorized Propagator. Unauthorized propagation or distribution of biological material derived from Accession: **RN-LMF-1882-RV** is strictly prohibited.

III. PRIOR ART SHIELD

This documentation establishes the identified morphological markers (Accession: RN-LMF-1882-RV) as **Prior Art** under the **Plant Variety Rights Act 2022**. This notification constitutes a formal record of "Common Knowledge" regarding the authentic 1882 *Lady Mary Fitzwilliam* scion, precluding any future claims of "novelty" required for a grant of Plant Variety Rights by third parties. This record also serves as a notice for the purpose of the **Fair Trading Act 1986** to prevent the misleading or deceptive sale of rootstock material under this cultivar's name.

5.IV. Sole Propagator and Custodianship Clause

As the Steward of the **RN-LMF-1882-RV** lineage, Ranui Nurseries retains the exclusive right to propagate and distribute this specific genetic material.

Authorized Distribution: Cuttings or plants will only be supplied to "Trusted Custodians" who have signed a non-distribution agreement.

Verification Requirement: Any material sold or displayed as Lady Mary Fitzwilliam (1882) must be accompanied by a Ranui Nurseries Certificate of Authenticity to ensure it is not the reverted Roxburgh Mystery Rose rootstock.

IPONZ Alignment: This clause is in accordance with the Plant Variety Rights Act 2022 filing, securing the commercial and botanical integrity of the rescue.

6. CONCLUSION

The material held at Ranui Nurseries is confirmed as the authentic 1882 *Lady Mary Fitzwilliam*. This record corrects nearly a century of misidentification and restores the only verified botanical baseline for the New Zealand record.

SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alan Parker', written over a horizontal line.

Date: 22/4/2026

ALAN PARKER, LEAD INVESTIGATOR, AND STEWARD

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